

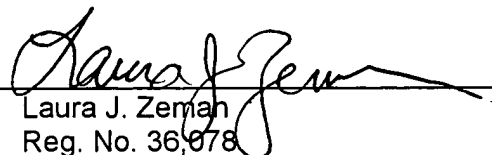
overcome the Examiner's objection to claims 15-22, Applicants have rewritten these claims as requested by the Examiner. However, Applicants wish to point out to the Examiner that Applicants' claim 20 is an independent claim and is therefore not dependent upon a rejected base claim. Therefore, Applicants have not cancelled and rewritten independent claim 20. However, remaining claims 15-19 and 21-22 have been rewritten, as the Examiner suggested, as claims 25-29 and 30-31 to include all of the limitations of their rejected base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants believe original claim 20 and new claims 25-31 to be in condition for allowance.

After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 20 and 23-31 (3 independent claims; 10 total claims) remain pending in the application. Original claims 23 and 24 were already indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims fully comply with 35 U.S.C. §112 and are allowable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the above in greater detail or deem that further amendments should be made to improve the form of the claims, then the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

In that only old claims are cancelled and new claims have been added, and no amendments were made to existing claims, Applicants have not included a separate paper which constitutes a version with markings to show changes made.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Laura J. Zeman
Reg. No. 36,678

SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.
One Arizona Center
400 East Van Buren
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2202
Telephone: (602) 382-6377
Facsimile: (602) 382-6070